SIAST
SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Report of the Employer Survey of SIAST Graduates, July 2002

Prepared by:
SIAST Planning, Research and Development Division
Institutional Research Office

July 2002
#02-10b

www.siast.sk.ca

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Report of the Employer Survey of SIAST Graduates, July 2002

Prepared by:
SIAST Planning, Research and Development
Institutional Research Office

Eunice Bergstrom, Research Officer

Report #02-10b

©July 2002
Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)
Planning, Research and Development Division

Reproduction of this report or parts thereof is permitted provided appropriate acknowledgments are given.

Report of the SIAST Employer Survey

Executive Summary

In order to determine the satisfaction levels with the skills and training that SIAST students receive, a telephone survey was conducted with employers of the graduates from the 2001 academic year. Telephone interviews were completed with 359 out of the 493 unduplicated employers for whom accurate contact information could be located, for a response rate of 73%.

The results, summarized below, indicate a high level of satisfaction with SIAST graduates. Employer satisfaction with the preparation of SIAST graduates for positions in their companies (92%), and the very high proportion of employers who said they would hire SIAST graduates again (97%) are particularly noteworthy.

Comparative figures from the survey carried out last year follow the figures for this year.

- Ninety-two percent (92%) of responding employers are *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the preparation of SIAST graduates for positions in their companies. (2001: 89%)
- Seventy-one percent (71%) of employers rated the *general job-related knowledge* of the graduates as *very good* or *good*. (2001: 75%)
- Seventy-two percent (72%) of employers rated the *technical job-related skills* of the graduates as *very good* or *good*. (2001: 76%)
- Seventy-three percent (73%) rated the overall job preparation as *good* or *very good*. (2001: 74%)
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) said that they would *hire SIAST graduates again*. (2001: 88%)

Report of the SIAST Employer Survey

1.0 Background

In order to determine the satisfaction levels with the skills and training the students at SIAST receive, a telephone survey was conducted with the employers of the graduates in the 2001 academic year.

The names and business of 493 unduplicated employers, for whom accurate contact information could be located, were extracted from the SIAST Graduate Employment Survey 2001 database.

The Institutional Research Office developed a set of four questions to survey the employers. The questionnaire is attached as Appendix A.

2.0 Response Rate

The response rate to the survey was 73%; 359 employers were interviewed of the 493 for which there was accurate contact information.

3.0 Results

3.1. Highlights of Results

The highlights and the results within the report are based on the 359 completed surveys of employers of SIAST graduates. Comparative figures from the survey last year follow the figures for this year.

- Ninety-two percent (92%) of responding employers are *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the preparation of SIAST graduates for positions in their companies. (2001: 89%)
- Seventy-one percent (71%) of employers rated the *general job-related knowledge* of the graduates as *very good* or *good*. (2001: 75%)
- Seventy-two percent (72%) of employers rated the *technical job-related skills* of the graduates as *very good* or *good*. (2001: 76%)
- Seventy-three percent (73%) rated the overall job preparation as *good* or *very good*. (2001: 74%)
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) said that they would *hire SIAST graduates again*. (2001: 88%)

3.2. Detailed Results

The following are the results of the responses to the Employer Survey.

Question 1

In general, how do you rate the preparation of the SIAST graduates you employ in each of the following areas, using a rating of *Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, Poor, Very Poor*

	Very Good	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Poor*	*Very Poor*	*Don't Know/No Response*
General job-related knowledge	78 22%	221 49%	78 22%	16 4%	5 1%	6 2%
Technical job-related skills	89 25%	171 48%	74 20%	12 3%	3 1%	10 3%
Ability to perform required tasks	104 29%	168 47%	67 19%	10 2%	5 1%	5 1%
Communication and interpersonal skills	87 24%	169 47%	77 21%	10 3%	5 1%	11 3%
Problem solving skills	56 16%	168 47%	97 27%	25 7%	6 2%	7 2%
Overall job preparation	87 24%	176 49%	70 20%	17 5%	4 1%	5 1%

Figure 1 - General Job-Related Knowledge

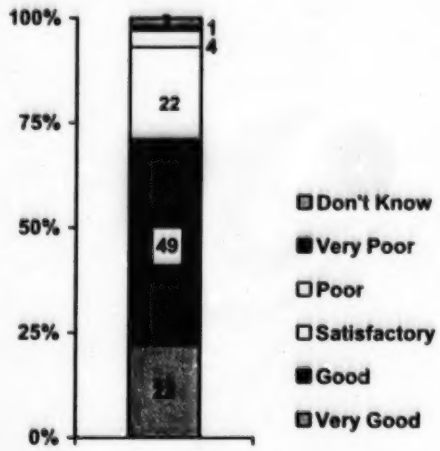


Figure 2 - Technical Job-Related Skills

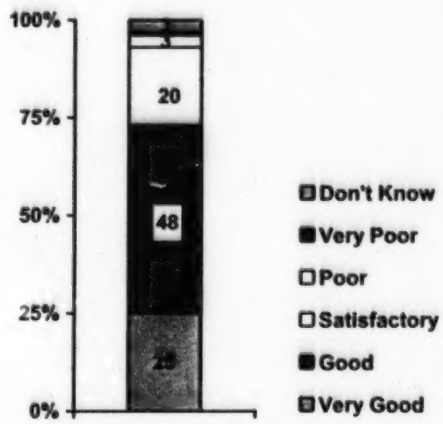


Figure 3 - Problem Solving Skills

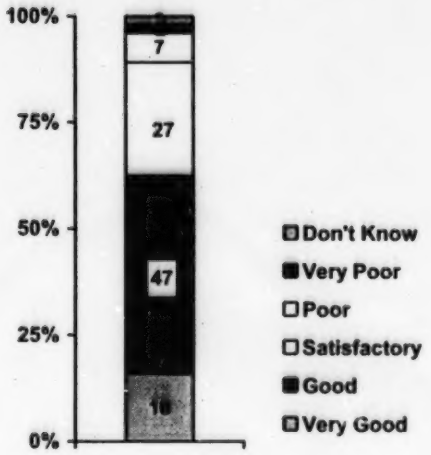
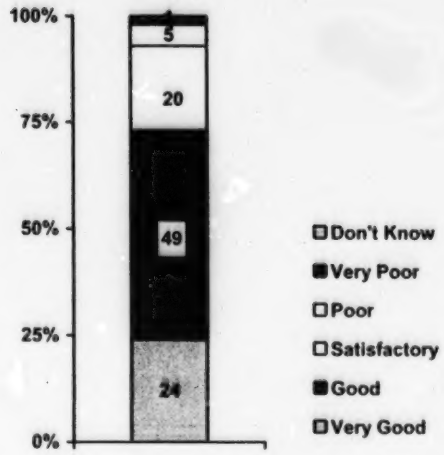


Figure 4 - Overall Job Preparation

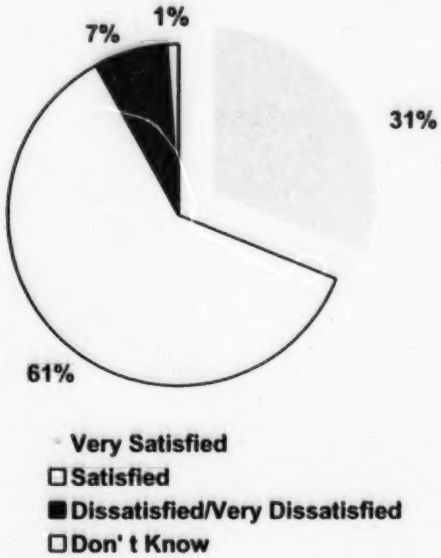


Question 2

In general, how satisfied are you with the preparation of SIAST graduates for positions within your company?

Very Satisfied		*Satisfied*		*Dissatisfied*		*Very Dissatisfied*		*Don't Know/No Response*	
112	31%	220	61%	16	5%	7	2%	4	1%

Figure 5 – Employers' Level of Satisfaction - Preparation of SIAST Graduates



Question 3

Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the curriculum or the instruction that would help to better prepare SIAST graduates for working in this field?

For the most part, the suggestions and comments were general in nature for all programs at SIAST. A number of the comments, though, were program specific. There was strong support for the co-operative education, work placement and practicum concept in programs. Many of the respondents indicated that good communication skills and management skills were very important in the workforce and that SIAST should incorporate these concepts in all programs.

Question 4

Based on your experience with SIAST graduates, and should your organization /business need similar employees in the future, would you hire a SIAST graduate?

Yes		*No*		*Undecided*		*Not Applicable*	
347	97%	3	1%	7	2%	2	1%

NOTE: percentages are rounded and hence exceed 100%

SIAST Employer Survey

INTERVIEWER: SIAST is conducting follow-up studies to evaluate the satisfaction of employers who hired graduates of the career programs offered through the Kelsey, Woodland, Palliser and Wascana campuses as well as the Regional Colleges. Did your office/business hire any SIAST graduates in 2000?

Yes _____ No_____

(If no, thank respondent and conclude interview; if yes, continue)

Can you refer me to the appropriate person who could answer 4 questions about evaluating the training of SIAST graduates employed at your place of business? **(Graduates' supervisor, or Human Resources personnel)**

(When appropriate person has been located)
May I ask you a few questions about your satisfaction with the skills and knowledge of SIAST graduates that you hired in 2000?

1. In each of the following areas, how do you rate the preparation of the SIAST graduates you employ, using a rating of *very good, good, satisfactory, poor, very poor, don't know*?

	Very Good	Good	Satis-factory	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know
A. General job-related knowledge						
B. Technical job-related skills						
C. Ability to perform required tasks						
D. Communication & Interpersonal Skills						
E. Problem solving skills						
F. Overall job preparation						

2. In general, how satisfied are you with the preparation of SIAST graduates for positions within your company, using a rating of *very satisfied, satisfied, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied, Don't Know*?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Don't Know

3. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the curriculum or the instruction that would help to better prepare SIAST students for working in this field?

4. Based on your experience with SIAST graduates, and should your organization/business need similar employees in the future, would you hire a SIAST graduate?

a) Yes _____ b) No _____ c) Undecided _____ d) Not Applicable _____

Please comment, if not applicable or add general comments:

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer these questions.